Manual of Departmental Security Instructions relating to classification of information. The "Freedom of Information Bill" also contains modalities for seeking information as also remedial measures in cases where access to information is refused.

The Report of the Working Group has been forwarded to the various Central Ministries/Departments and the State Governments/Union Territories administrations seeking their views/ comments on the recommendations. The Ministries/Departments administering the aforesaid Acts and other provisions have been separately requested to initiate action in respect of these recommendations.

Autonomy to CBI

1037. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give overall autonomy to CBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and enjoys full functional autonomy.

Bringing Employees of Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidjyalayas under CAT

1038. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to issue notification announcing inclusion of employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas under the jurisdiction of Central Administrative Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN); (a) to (c) The Question of bringing the employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas and some other organisations under the jurisdiction of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) is dependent on the assessment of additional workload as a result thereof on the CAT for which the concerned organisations have yet to supply some additional information.

सम्पन्न वर्ग (क्रीमी लेयर) को अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (ओ०बी०सी०) जैसी सुविधाएं न दिया जाना

1039. **श्री शिव चरण सिंह:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि प्रशासनिक सेवाओं की परीक्षा में सम्पन्न वर्ग (क्रीमी लेयर) के अभ्यर्थियों को अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों को उपलब्ध सुविधाएं नहीं मिलती हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि के बाद और/या प्रतियोगिता-परीक्षा तिथि के बाद सम्पन्न-वर्ग के अंतर्गत आने वाले अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के अभ्यर्थी परिणाम अनुकूल होने पर भी कोटा-नियुक्ति से वंचित कर दिए जाते हैं; जैसा कि हाल ही में राजस्थान प्रशासनिक सेवा परीक्षाओं के संदर्भ में हुआ है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसका औचित्य क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती जयन्ती नटराजन): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) केन्द्र सरकार ने इस आशय के ऐसे कोई आदेश जारी नहीं किए हैं कि जिससे अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के ऐसे उम्मीदवारों को, जो "सम्पन्न वर्ग" (क्रीमी लेयर) के अंतर्गत आते हैं, आवेदन की अंतिम तारीख और/अथवा प्रतियोगी परीक्षा की तारीख के पश्चात्

अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग के लिए दी गई आरक्षण प्रसुविधाओं से वंचित कर दिया जाता है। राजस्थान सिविल सेवा परीक्षा के संदर्भ में राजस्थान सरकार ने यह सूचित किया है कि अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों के लिए दी गई आरक्षण प्रसुविधा से केवल ऐसे उम्मीदवारों को वंचित किया गया है जो राज्य सरकार की दिनांक 28.9.1993 की अधिसूचना के अनुसार श्रेणी-I अथवा श्रेणी-II के पदों पर कार्यरत थे और इस तरह आवेदन के समय भी "सम्पन्न वर्ग" (क्रीमी लेयर) में आते थे।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Public Facilities Counters on Government Offices

1040. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to set-up public facilities counters in Government offices, to provide access to information of public importance, especially of specific plans or projects and targets for completion, etc.;

(b) the details of Ministries which have taken action to open such counters; and

(c) the follow-up action taken to persuade other Ministries to open such counters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) As part of the Government's decision to provide an effective and responsive administration and ensuring citizen-friendly Government, Information and Facilitation Counters have been set up in the first phase in 8 Government office Buildings viz., Shastri Bhavan, Krishi Bhavan, Dak Bhavan, Sanchar Bhavan, Rail Bhavan, Nirman Bhavan, Udyog Bhavan and North Block. About 40 Ministries/Departments having larger public interface will provide the members of the public and the customers of the Government simplified and speedy system of securing various information regarding schemes and procedures, submission of complaints and position of pending matters such as approvals, permits etc. These counters are being progressively computerised and are placed outside the security zone for easy accessibility. The question of extension of the scheme to other Ministries with public interface will be considered in due course.

Working Group on Right to Information and Promoting open and Transparent Government

1041. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group constituted by Government to study the issues connected with the Right to Information and promoting open and transparent Government has submitted its report;

(b) if so, when the report was submitted and what are the main recommendations thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations accepted by Government; and

(d) the details of action taken regarding the implementation of those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) The Working Group on "Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government", under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie, submitted its report to the Government on the 21st May, 1997. The Group has prepared for consideration of the Government a draft "Freedom of Information Bill". Its other main recommendations are: amendments to Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923, Sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 together with consequential amendments in the Code of